

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, November 22, 2002

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

Warrior spirit

Joseph Terry, known in his Haliwa-Saponi tribe as Osprey, waits to perform a traditional dance at the Native American Heritage Month Picnic Nov. 15 with his father in the background. Joseph is the son of Lt. Col. Allan Terry, 317th Airlift Squadron, and his wife, Sandra Richardson-Terry.

Leaders speak to ATA

CSAF, CENTCOM, AMC commanders praise air mobility

By CYNTHIA BAUER
AIR MOBILITY COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military and civilian, active duty, Guard and Reserve, and contractor representatives, almost 3,000 strong, met in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 7-10 for the 34th gathering of the Airlift/Tanker Association.

The theme of this year's convention: "Our People at War."

The agenda included three keynote speakers and 34 professional development seminars. Seminar topics ranged from missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to the future of air mobility.

Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command, delivered the first keynote speech on Enduring Freedom Thursday evening.

He came to the convention to personally thank those responsible for airlift and air refueling. He also came to say that the United States is in the Global War on Terrorism until the war is won.

"We're going to go where we have to go, we're going to stay there as long as we have to stay, as long as it needs to go on," Franks said.

The general talked about the success of the United States in bringing down terrorists. He asked the audience, "Did airlifters and transporters do this? Oh, yes."

Franks recalled landing in Souda,

See ATA, page 6

437 CS to improve network

Upgrades to include fiber-optic cable, new equipment

By 2nd LT. ROBERT NICHOLS
437 CS

Almost 43 miles of fiber-optic cable will be installed to roughly 135 facilities on Charleston AFB through August to meet new network needs and upgrade the base communications infrastructure.

According to Tech. Sgt. Fil Rowley, 437th Communications Squadron project manager, the Combat Information Transfer System will improve fiber-optic cable infrastructure and networking equipment to meet current and future network requirements.

"That means Charleston's communication customers will have fast, reliable connectivity to the base's unclassified network," said

Rowley. "It will give users near-instantaneous access and information transfer."

In addition to new networking equipment, the upgrade will also include advanced training for the communications squadron network technicians who maintain it.

"The end result will be highly-trained technicians and administrators working on a system that will increase availability of resources for the customer," said Tech. Sgt. Jesse Humberd, 437 CS network manager. "The goal is to eliminate down time for the customer."

According to Rowley, the \$9.5 million project will keep network ser-

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Family: Our foundation – military and personal – supporting each other – inseparable in the fight.

AIR MOBILITY

Everyone plays a part to make mission successful

By COL. DAVID SNODGRASS
437 MSG COMMANDER

Now that we're about 14 months into Operation Enduring Freedom, I think it's a good time to pause for a moment and take stock of what we collectively do for our nation and its citizens.

It is perhaps all too easy to minimize the importance of our individual contributions, but that would be a mistake. Every person on this base plays a vital role and is key to sustaining the high operations tempo that the war on terror demands.

As we all know, the significant force reductions over the past decade have resulted in a military that is much leaner than before. However, this smaller force has an unaltered responsibility to defend America against those who seek to destroy us.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, many foreign policy experts predicted the evolution of a benign "new world order." Instead, we have recently witnessed the formation of new threats to our freedoms and our way of life.

Demented killers, driven by a twisted ideology, present us with challenges that are different from those of the past. They attempt to use terror against the defenseless as a means to shake our national resolve and to hide from our superior military capabilities.

Since Sept. 11, all of us were forced to recognize that no longer do the broad oceans provide sanctuary against an enemy that targets innocent civilians.

This wave of terror has compelled us to

worth repeating

... our immediate task is to protect the lives of our families and friends here at home.



—COL. DAVID SNODGRASS
437th Mission Support Group commander

shift our primary attention away from concern about defending our allies in distant lands.

Instead, our immediate task is to protect the lives of our families and friends here at home.

To accomplish that goal requires that we seek out the enemy, to take the initiative away from the terrorist so that we can dictate the pace and terms of the conflict. That means using all the tools at America's disposal to eliminate the threat at its source.

The old football adage, "the best defense is a good offense," clearly applies to national defense as well.

To get to where the enemy lives, trains and receives support necessitates power projection, and that is where airlift comes to the rescue.

This nation would indeed be in a desperate situation without our unmatched ability to rapidly move personnel and vast quantities of materiel to far-away, remote locations. Many of these places are virtually inaccessible by any other means.

Fortunately, the Air Force's strategic and tactical airlift team can literally reach any

point on the globe. We can go places ships can't sail and get there in a matter of hours, not weeks or months.

No other nation approaches the airlift capabilities of the United States.

Much has been written about the contributions of Charleston's C-17s to OEF. That success is made possible by hard work, creative problem solving and dedication.

A total commitment to excellence is evident everywhere I go and is the hallmark of this base. The men and women of Team Charleston understand that it's a total team effort of our active duty members, reservists from the 315th Airlift Wing and our extraordinary civilians who work together around the clock to get the job done.

Everyone at this base should feel a deep sense of pride in being a part of this noble mission. Again, never underestimate the importance of what you do, because without everyone doing his or her part, the mission would not be possible.

I don't know what may lay ahead in the war on terror. Understand though that whatever action is taken, Charleston's C-17 will continue to play a key and critical part in future operations.

That's why it's important for all of us to be mentally prepared to surge yet again to meet the challenge. We can look for inspiration to previous generations of Americans who have, since the nation's founding, met every challenge.

I have no doubt that Charleston Warriors will be ready for whatever comes our way.

Wing commander answers NCOs', airmen's questions

Issues with base library, theater, RV storage, clinic appointments for dependents addressed

Editor's note: These are answers to questions raised during recent NCOs' and Airmen's Luncheons. More questions and answers were published in the Nov. 8 and 15 editions of the *Airlift Dispatch*.

Q: Are there any plans to upgrade the base library facility? Can the books be updated, and are there any plans to increase the number of computers?

A: Our new librarian, Phil Quinones, is in the process of developing a plan to upgrade all of our materials. The library received more funds at the end of the fiscal year, and you should

see more computers and materials soon. Please contact the librarian at 963-3320 for more information or if you have specific requests.

Q: Can the base theater open more often and for longer periods of time?

A: Due to current attendance levels, the base theater is only open on Friday and Saturday. Showing movies during the week has been attempted in the past, but attendance was not high enough to offset the added expense. We have two Saturday matinees each month, and we will consider adding more Saturday matinees for popular mov-

ies. Please contact the 437th Services Squadron at 963-1234 if you have any specific suggestions.

Q: Are there any plans for a recreational vehicle storage lot for both on- and off-base residents?

A: Yes, we are building a new RV storage area that will replace the current RV storage lot. This lot will be open to both on-base as well as off-base personnel. The construction project should be complete next year.

Q: Can we improve the availability of appointments for

dependents and retirees seen at the base clinic?

A: The 437th Medical Group will implement two major new programs within the next six months that should significantly reduce wait times for appointments.

We realize that there were periods over the summer where access to care was not optimal. The 437 MDG deployed personnel to support the war on terrorism and it experienced unusually high staff turnover during the summer PCS cycle.

Appointment availability has been improving since September, and we will continue to look for ways to improve patient care.

COMMENTARY

Commander's
Comments

By COL. BROOKS BASH
437 AW COMMANDER



Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW commander

Thanks to all who participated in the Turkey Trot yesterday. **Staff Sgt. Margo Hamm, Steve Parrish** and our entire Fitness and Sports Center staff do a great job of offering a variety of opportunities to get together for fun and fitness. I look forward to seeing an even bigger crowd at the Jingle Jog, Dec. 18. Be there with bells on . . . literally.

This has been another busy week at Charleston AFB. Lt. Gen. John Baker, vice commander, Air Mobility Command, praised the people and programs he saw here during last week's visit. You can be very proud of the way you are accomplishing the mission.

On Monday we hosted Gen. Richard Wolsztynski, the French air force chief of staff. Thanks to **Maj. Rod Lewis** and **Master Sgt. David Hudspeth** for arranging all the details of that visit. Lt. Gen. (sel) Arthur Lichte, AMC director of plans and programs and Gen. Wolsztynski's escort for the visit, made a special point to acknowledge the outstanding support provided by the professionals at Charleston AFB.

We also arranged an orientation for spouses of our senior leaders, giving them an overview of the family services the base provides and better insight into the mission of the wing. Special thanks to **Nancy Corbin, Flora Hoss-Mason, Kathy Knichel** and **Diane Chancey** from the 437th Airlift Wing and **Debra Baldwin**, 315th Airlift Wing, for organizing the program.

On Tuesday, Brig. Gen. Loren Reno, Air Mobility Command director of logistics, cut the ribbon on our new 55,000-square-foot corrosion

control facility, which gives our maintainers the ability to wash aircraft, prepare aircraft surfaces, and paint aircraft in an enclosed environment that meets Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Environmental Protection Agency standards. Kudos to **Capt. Tracey Richardson** and **Staff Sgt. Suzie Henry** for their support of that visit.

Airman 1st Class Manuel Ortiz was my "shadow" on Tuesday. Airman Ortiz is a medical logistics journeyman assigned to the 437th Medical Group. His regular duties include receiving and distributing pharmaceutical and medical supplies, and he also serves on the base Honor Guard and Hispanic Heritage Council. I am extremely proud of him and the other fine airmen of this wing.

Maj. Gen. Nick Williams, 21st Air Force commander, is here today for the outbrief of the Aircrew Standardization/Evaluation and the Air Transportation Standardization /Evaluation inspections. Thank you to all the folks who worked hard to facilitate a productive visit for the inspection teams from 21st Air Force.

You may have noticed my commander's access channel, Channel 2, has been sporting a new look the past couple weeks, and now features music. My personal thanks to **Lt. Col. John Keffer** and **2nd Lt. Jason Baggett** for clearing the legal hurdles with the music provider, to **Tech. Sgt. Gary Wright** and **Airman 1st Class Scott Baldwin** who provided the hands-on technical expertise to pipe the music in, and to **2nd Lt. Shaloma McGovern** who is overseeing all the upgrades. I encourage you to tune in to Channel 2, and provide feedback to Lt. McGovern in Public Affairs.

I will be traveling to Germany next week to visit the people of Team Charleston who keep the operation running there. Please keep families of our deployed people in your thoughts, and pitch in to make the extra effort to ensure families are well taken care of in the military member's absence. If you are looking for a way to help but do not know how, check with **Master Sgt. Ken Gilmore** at the Family Support Center, and he will match your talents with a need.

The day after Thanksgiving will be a down day so you can enjoy an extended holiday weekend. For those of you heading out of town for an early start on your Thanksgiving holiday, please travel safely, and allow yourself plenty of time to get to your destination.

Thank you for all the good work, and keep it safe!

Action line caller expresses concerns about tuition assistance

Q: I obtained some literature from the Charleston Aero Club, in pursuit of more information in accomplishing my life-long dream of being a pilot. As I read through some of the brochures, I noticed one article stating the tuition assistance benefits, if you are active duty, offset the cost of ground school. The other brochures stated that the cost of ground school, which consists of about 30 hours of paid instruction classroom or individual study, is \$225. I spoke with the TA counselor at the education office and she said TA

would pay all up to \$225 for the ground school costs only. When I doubled-checked with the Aero Club, I was informed that TA cannot be used for ground school here at all. Why is TA not an option for offsetting the cost for ground school here?

A: Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the use of tuition assistance to pay for ground school. AFI 36-2306 states that the Air Force provides TA for courses of study at Air Force Aero Clubs for ground school. Richard

McLaren, Aero Club manager, provided a list of the fees and charges for the Private Pilot Course. The \$225 for the ground school and the \$270 for ground school materials would be reimbursed by the Air Force at the successful completion of your program. Please contact one of our education counselors at 963-4575 to complete the necessary paperwork. Good luck realizing your dream!

— Col. Brooks Bash
437th Airlift Wing commander

Action line: 963-5581 or action@charleston.af.mil.

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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IN THE NEWS

Locks of Love comes to CAFB

STORY AND PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMY PERRY
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Eight people donated more than 140 inches of hair to a charitable cause.

The Charleston AFB Beauty Salon sponsored the drive in support of Locks of Love.

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces for financially disadvantaged children under the age of 18 with medical hair loss.

During the hair drive, donors received free haircuts for donating 10 or more inches of hair, said Carmen Verasany, beauty salon manager. Ten inches is the minimum length required by Locks of Love.

Locks of Love provides custom, vacuum-fitted hairpieces made entirely from donated human hair to the children, said the Locks of Love Web site. The vacuum fit is designed for children who have experienced a total loss of scalp hair. Many of the children who receive the donations have suffered burns, endured radiation treatment to the brain stem or experienced dermatological conditions that result in permanent hair loss.

Kelsey Bash, daughter of Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, and his wife, MaryBeth, was the first to shed her tresses to Locks of Love.

"I just wanted to do something to make a

change," said Kelsey. "My mom used to work with kids with cancer, and I wanted to do something for kids with cancer."

One of the donors was a veteran donor to Locks of Love. Master Sgt. Kathey Rawson, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, said this is the third time she's donated her locks.

"I need to have it cut anyway, and they put it to good use," said Rawson. "How can you avoid doing something for kids?"

Rawson said her hair is still halfway down her back, and she goes in to donate it once it gets too long to keep in military regulation, usually about once a year.

The outcome of this first hair drive pleased the employees of the beauty shop, said Versany.

"My best expectation was one person a day during the drive," said Versany. "People get very attached to their long hair."

Plans to make the hair drive a yearly event are underway, and the beauty shop plans to have next year's drive in October, in conjunction with National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, said Versany.

Even though the hair drive and free cuts are over, Versany said anyone who wants to donate hair to Locks of Love can do so at the beauty salon. The salon will bind the hair and send it to Locks of Love.



Kara Routley-Tubbs, Charleston AFB Beauty Salon cosmetologist, cuts 10 inches of Kelsey Bash's hair for donation to Locks of Love. Kelsey is the daughter of Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, and his wife, MaryBeth.

ATA— continued from page 1

Crete, Sept. 11, 2001, on his way to Pakistan, where he learned about the terrorist attacks from a television broadcast. He said he called his friend, Gen. John Handy, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, because he needed a little help.

"Ever since that day, I have reminded myself because of all that you have done, for me, for our command, for your command, for the United States of America, we owe you. I owe you," said Franks.

Friday evening, Handy tallied AMC successes during the war on terrorism, which include more than 27,000 air refueling, airlift, aeromedical as well as senior leader and presidential support missions and more than 1,350 patients airlifted out of Afghanistan as of Nov. 8.

"We have never had an emergency evacuation waiting for lift, ever. It's a victory so far, from the Afghan war," he said.

Handy said that because of tankers, not one U.S. fighter or bomber

mission went lacking for fuel. The tankers enabled some historic events for the Air Force including the longest B-2 mission of 44.3 hours, and the longest F-15 combat sortie of 15.5 hours.

Airlift became an instrument of national will. Handy said the first of the 2.4 million Humanitarian Daily Rations were dropped in Afghanistan the first night fighter bombers dropped munitions. He said the historic high-altitude HDR airdrop erased any doubts of U.S. intentions to battle the terrorists and help the Afghans and the Northern Alliance.

Handy also shared his vision from his command "Flight Plan" on people, global mobility task force, modernization, and ingenuity and information technology.

People are his number-one priority, and he said the AMC staff is committed to working hard every day to find ways to appropriately take care of people in the command and their families. Handy said the high operations tempo has him worried.

"The marathon we're in doesn't

allow for water breaks. It doesn't allow us to slow down and walk at any particular time. It doesn't even allow us to, heaven forbid, quit. We are locked in the unique marathon of the Global War on Terrorism until the absolute finish. As men and women of Air Mobility Command, I will tell you, as a team, we will finish," he said.

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John Jumper provided his views of mobility in the last session of the convention.

On air mobility force packaging, Jumper said part of the emerging Global Mobility Task Force is to develop the air mobility community as the center of excellence for expeditionary operations.

"And we're going to set up this center of excellence through what already happens at Phoenix Readiness (at McGuire AFB, N.J.) and train commanders of support operations to run large tent cities. We're going to standardize that skill throughout the Air Force," he said.

He talked about the "Smart Tanker" as solving the problem of getting target-quality information

to the fighters and bombers, and as a product of effects-based thinking.

Jumper said, "I sat bolt upright in bed about a year ago and said 'Good God, what's always there?' It's the tankers. And where do we put them? We put them as close as we can possibly get them (to the battle) so they can refuel the short-legged airplanes and get them targeting (information) ... Why don't we take that and make it a network?"

That vision is now becoming reality for the Air Force.

Jumper went on to say, "You know, we can talk about platforms and the great job we do all we want, but in the end, it's the people who make all this stuff happen ...

"When you wear the uniform of the nation, you symbolize the pride, the strength, the power of this nation to all other Americans," he said. "I am proud of you. Look at what you have done, look at what we are doing, not just as an Air Force, but as a joint force. Not just as a joint force, but as part of coalitions and alliances. Be proud of yourselves. Tell your people you're proud of them."

Contact center adds new online service

Real-time help for MPF customers anywhere is available at Web site

Team Charleston can now get real-time help with personnel issues online from anywhere in the world thanks to new Web features offered by the Air Force Contact Center.

The online features let users view a database of frequently asked questions, chat live online with a customer service representative or submit queries via e-mail. The site can be found on the Air Force Personnel Center home page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil by clicking the "Contact Center" button.

The contact center will help Team Charleston with its day-to-day personnel issues, said Staff Sgt. Troy Jarrell, 437th Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight Promotions and Separations NCOIC.

"You can go straight to the source," said Jarrell. "For questions our MPF

Actions available online at Air Force Contact Center

View frequently asked questions

■ Search by category, keywords or phrases

Submit a question to personnel experts

■ Provide a brief summary of problems

Chat live with a Contact Center agent

■ Chat online, Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

My personal folder

■ Check status of pending questions

The Contact Center can be reached during duty hours at DSN 665-5000, commercial (210) 565-5000 or toll free (866) 229-7074. The Contact Center can also be reached via fax at DSN 665-1239 or commercial (210) 565-1239.

can't answer, that's who we go to."

Answers to questions about personnel information, pay, assignments, benefits, employment and more is accessible for Air Force active-duty members, retirees, civilians and family members. Limited services are also available for Guard and Reserve members. Representatives can be reached toll-free at (866) 229-7074 for those customers who prefer to speak to someone directly.

"Our goal at the contact center is to help people by providing a proactive approach to online customer support," said Maj. Alessandra

Stokstad, chief of the contact center. "Air Force people can search our ever-expanding database anytime or chat live with a customer service representative, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. central time Monday through Friday.

"These new features will be especially helpful in times of high deployments and ops tempo where people don't have the time or opportunity to go to their (MPF) for help," said Stokstad.

"Online chat is a very convenient means of communication," said Master Sgt. Dave Melnick, contact center systems manager. "Cus-

tomers service agents are here to answer questions that can't be found in our FAQ database."

First-time users of the contact center online are asked to create an account which will allow the customer service representatives to know who they are assisting and help speed the process.

Customers can also send questions to the help desk through the "Ask-A-Question" e-mail feature, said Melnick. People who submit questions to the contact center usually receive a response within two days.

"You can also get answers to questions if you feel unsure about the MPF's answer," Jarrell said.

Jarrell said he recommended Team Charleston to first come to the MPF for answers if that is an option, but if answers can't be found there, go to the online support.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service. Airman 1st Class Amy Perry, 437 AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)

CFC ends today

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMY PERRY**
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The extended Charleston AFB Combined Federal Campaign ends today with members giving more than \$170,000 to their favorite charities.

Squadron representatives and keyworkers from around the wing pitched in to maximize personal contact.

"It's the tough work of the squadron representatives to make sure everyone gets personal contact and that they are given the opportunity to give," said Capt. Erika Tanner, a CFC representative. "With more than 700 Team Charleston members deployed, it's hard to get the personal contact."

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Mathe, 437th Airlift Wing Staff representative, said the wing staff exceeded their goal by 20.5 percent and had 100 percent contact.

"The thing I looked for were motivated keyworkers," said Mathe. "I didn't want to pressure anyone to become a keyworker."

Although the official CFC drive ends today, Tanner said any CAFB member who has not had the opportunity to donate can call 963-3492 before Dec. 15.

Mathe said it was important to him to donate to the cause, so he would know the money would be there for him if he needed it one day.

Combat Camera Photo of the Week



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy Lock, 1 CTCS

What a view

An F-16 pilot from the 35th Fighter Squadron at Kunsan AB, Korea, flies an air-to-air combat mission Nov. 13 in support of Exercise Keen Sword 03 at Tsulki AB, Japan. Keen Sword 03 is a bilateral defense exercise designed to practice defending Japan against foreign aggression.

DOD sets first suicide prevention week

Week kicks off yearlong focus on importance of suicide prevention in military

By G.W. POMEROY

AIR FORCE SURGEON GENERAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Defense Department formally emphasized suicide prevention for the first time this week, according to the DOD Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee.

The committee addressed suicide prevention across all branches of the military with Suicide Prevention Week kicking off a yearlong observance of the importance of suicide prevention. The motto is, "Everyone Counts."

This motto reflects the fact the military is a family, and the loss of even one member is too many, according to Lt. Col. Rick Campise, the Air Force's Suicide Prevention Program manager.

As of Nov. 11, there had been 26 Air Force active-duty suicides in calendar 2002, for a rate of 8.6 per 100,000, the traditional measurement. This is the service's third-lowest rate in 20 years.

Charleston has not had an active-duty suicide in more than six years, but had three gestures, according to Lt Col. (Dr.) Frank Budd, 437th Medical Operations Squadron Behavioral Sciences flight commander.

Signs of depression, possible suicide risk

Talking About Dying — any mention of dying, disappearing, jumping, shooting oneself or other types of self harm

Recent Loss — through death, divorce, separation, broken relationship, loss of job, money, status, self-confidence, self-esteem, loss of religious faith, loss of interest in friends, sex, hobbies, activities previously enjoyed

Change in Personality — sad, withdrawn, irritable, anxious, tired, indecisive, apathetic

Change in Behavior — can't concentrate on school, work, routine tasks

Change in Sleep Patterns — insomnia, often with early waking or oversleeping, nightmares

"We are very blessed here, but we can never let our guard down," said Budd. "There are always individuals who feel overwhelmed by circumstances or are biologically vulnerable for depression."

To mark the annual event, the Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee planned a Suicide Prevention Forum Tuesday at the U.S. Navy's Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va. Representatives from each branch of the military discussed their current suicide prevention initiatives.

"The next six months will be an exciting time for the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program," Campise said. "Many products we've been developing will be ready for activation."

These initiatives include:

■ The Air Force Suicide Prevention Web site, which is geared toward improving access to suicide prevention information and materials

■ An Air Force "Guide for Managing Suicidal Behavior," designed to help clinicians assess and manage high-risk behavior

■ The 2003 Community Suicide Prevention Briefing, a new multimedia briefing involving slides and video that will replace the current suicide prevention briefing

■ The 2003 Leadership Suicide Prevention Briefing, a new multimedia briefing involving slides and video, geared toward wings, groups and squadron commanders

■ The Air Force Guide for Commanders and Gatekeepers in Managing High-Risk Behavior

The Air Force's community approach in suicide prevention and education has received national recognition, including praise in May 2001 from then-U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, who declared the program a model for the nation and incorporated it into the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

The Air Force uses an integrated delivery system that involves chaplains and professionals from mental health, family support, child and youth services, health and wellness centers and family advocacy — all working together and taking responsibility for prevention.

"We need to continuously remind members of our Air Force family of the many readily-available services and to actively encourage those feeling down or facing hardships to utilize these resources," said Budd. "There is always someone to talk to, someone who cares."

(Airman Stephanie Hammer, 437 AW Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)

COMM

continued from page 1

vice up and running at mission critical facilities on base by eliminating possible single points of failure. This is accomplished by re-routing communication traffic around the problem areas.

Also, installation of CITS will include 12 miles of trenching to provide a manhole and duct system to house the fiber optic cable, said Rowley.

"The digging will be conducted to minimize impact on CAFB personnel," he said. "Also, contractors will bore under a majority of roads to prevent traffic delays."

Rowley added that contractors would not be working in the housing areas.

When complete, Rowley said Charleston's network will be completely controllable, including remote monitoring and maintenance, from the network control center.

"The base communications will be upgraded with a high-speed backbone, including state-of-the-art equipment configured for optimum performance and built to meet communication requirements for the next 10 years," said Rowley.



Photo by Airman Stephanie Hammer

Lance Groves, a contractor working with the 437th Communications Squadron, prepares to lay fiber-optic cable. The new cable, along with new equipment and advanced training, is expected to improve the Charleston AFB communications network. Work on the project is slated to continue into August.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Maintenance Operation Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Michael Leies today, 2 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Susan Barnes at 963-5776.

Retirement: The 437th Operations Support Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Daniel Moran Tuesday, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Matt Harless at 963-8004.

Around the base

Closure: The intersection at the corner of Stewart and Graves Avenues will be closed until Nov. 29. This closure will primarily affect personnel who work in buildings 705 and 707, who should now use Davis Drive to enter the back end of their parking lot.

Clinic: The Naval Weapons Station Branch Medical Center After Hours Clinic will no longer be open after 6 p.m. starting Dec. 2. Access to the clinic will be through appointment. The weekend clinic hours will be 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Clinic: The Clinic will be closed Nov. 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday. For emergencies, call 911. For non-emergencies, call the Clinic at 963-6790.

Toys: The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program and the Law Riders Motor Cycle Club's 6th Annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Toy Ride to benefit Lowcountry children

was postponed due to weather and is rescheduled for Sunday. Registration will be 10 a.m. - noon at the North Charleston Coliseum with a cost of \$10 for those not bearing toys, or \$5 and one unwrapped toy. The ride is free for passengers bearing one wrapped new toy. The ride will begin at noon. For more information, call the Marine Corps Reserve at 743-2221.

The Hunter Haven is also sponsoring the Annual Celebrity Sporting Clays, with proceeds to benefit the Toys for Tots program. The event will be held Saturday – Sunday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Hunter Haven, located on Ashley River Road. The cost of the event is \$35 for two rounds of sporting clays with additional rounds costing \$5 each. For more information, call Paul Grooms 556-7346, or Sgt. Quentin Witherspoon at 871-1043.

Commissary: The Commissary will be open Monday to accommodate special holiday shopping needs, but will be closed Thursday – Nov. 29

in observance of Thanksgiving.

Walk: The base will conduct a semi-annual Foreign Object Damage Prevention Program walk Dec. 3, 9 a.m., at the south end of Hanger 700. It will sweep the entire length of the flightline. Line badges are not required. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Aaron Rivers at 963-4687.

CLEP: There will be a math CLEP preparatory class held at the Community Education Center, Dec. 9-11, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. The CLEP General Mathematics exam will be administered Dec. 12 and meets the CCAF requirement for mathematics. Seats must be confirmed by Dec. 5. For more information, or to reserve a seat, call 963-4575.

Channel 2: The Commander's Access Channel is an effective way to publicize events to the base populous. To submit requests for airing, e-mail 2nd Lt. Shaloma McGovern at shaloma.mcGovern@charleston.af.mil.

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Staff Sgt. Bobby Hall 437th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Bobby Hall is the material manager for the 437th Security Forces Squadron.

The Oil City, Penn., native is the primary IMPAC cardholder and purchaser for the squadron. He is responsible for researching and ordering equipment and supplies for squadron personnel and for deployments.

Some of the things Hall takes care of include radios, patrol car and other vehicle equipment, weapons repair kits, pass and identification supplies, and even dog food and leashes for military working dogs.

"The toughest part of my job is trying to make everyone happy," said Hall. "It's hard to get everybody everything they want."

Though trained as a supply technician, Hall worked for six months as a member of a data integrity team for the 437th Maintenance Group, before spending the last year in the 437 SFS.

"I was picked to come to this job," Hall said. "I like it because I'm able to interact with a lot of different people. I don't always just sit in the office, I get to do a lot outside the office too."

"With this job, I see a side of supply I didn't know existed," he continued. "Every day there's something different, and when teams deploy, it can get pretty hectic."

In his free time, Hall said he enjoys weightlifting and spending time with his 21-month-old daughter, Haleigh, and wife, Staff Sgt. Stefanie Hall, who works in the 437th Airlift Wing Protocol office.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streever

437 MSG announces limited service hours

Units in the 437th Mission Support Group will operate under special hours Thursday:

437th Services Squadron

Dining facility: Open 24 hours, for all four meals

Flight kitchen: Closed, but box meals will be made and delivered out of the dining facility

Fitness and Sports Center: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Child Development Center and Youth Programs: Open for mission essential personnel only

Charleston Club: Closed for lunch, but will open at 4 p.m. to provide all regular services

Outdoor Rec.: Closed Thursday -

Nov. 30

Library: Closed Thursday-Nov. 29

Lodging: Open 24 hours

Bowling Alley: Open

Aero Club: Open

Veterinarian: Closed

437th Civil Engineer Squadron

Self-Help Store: Closed

Housing Office: Closed

Housing Maintenance: Closed

437th Security Forces Squadron

Pass and Registration: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Dorchester Gate Visitor Center: 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

FEATURE



Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, and Wolsztynski listen to a pre-flight briefing before taking off for demonstrations of the C-17's capabilities.



Wolsztynski returns a salute as he is greeted on the flightline by members of CAFB.



Gen. Richard Wolsztynski, chief of staff of the French air force, fights the sun as he watches another C-17 preparing to make a cargo drop over North Auxiliary Air Field during a demonstration Monday.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

France takes a Ride on a C-17

Team Charleston shows French air force what the plane can do

By **AIRMAN STEPHANIE HAMMER**
437 AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the plane shot into the air, their eyes opened wide as they struggled against the gravity trying to pull them from their seats.

They grasped at each other as they tried to regain some steadiness in their moment of surprise.

Gen. Richard Wolsztynski, chief of staff of the French air force, and his entourage looked from one to the other in surprise as members of Charleston AFB showed them what a C-17 could really do.

"We provided an opportunity for the general to fly on a C-17," said Maj. Rod Lewis, 16th Airlift Squadron chief of current operations and the project officer for the visit.

"We were able to show him the unique flying capabilities of the C-17," he continued, "including its ability to take-off and land on short runways and the ease at which the

plane can make tactical approaches."

After several demonstrations in the air and at North Auxiliary Air Field, Wolsztynski landed back on the Charleston AFB flightline with words of praise before reflecting on his own missions in France.

"There are many challenges (for the French air force), but that is normal," said Wolsztynski. "I would say it's just to consolidate the all-volunteer force because as you know we now have an all-volunteer force. It is very new.

"Our last (non-volunteers) only left last year," he continued. "So we have to consolidate all this, which means recruiting and retaining people. This looks good today, but it's my responsibility to make sure that we are on the right way for the long term in this all-volunteer force now."

Wolsztynski also thanked everyone for trying to make him feel at home.

Even though the general wasn't exactly at

home, he said when he visited CAFB, it somewhat felt that way, not just because of the weather, but because the structures of the U.S. Air Force and French air force are very similar.

"(CAFB) looks like all the other air bases, but this is something which is great because the French air force is very close as far as structure is concerned," said Wolsztynski.

"I'm not talking about big commands like Air Mobility Command, but the basic structure, which is the structure of an air base," he added.

After the plane landed, and the entourage found their footing again, Wolsztynski boarded a plane back to Washington, D.C., to meet Gen. John Jumper, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, for the first time.

"I've seen many smiling people, smiling faces, so that's great," said Wolsztynski. "I've seen people motivated and dedicated to their mission, so keep doing it."

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive

Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Phone: 963-2536.

After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services: *Saturday* - 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. *Weekdays* - 11:30 a.m. Mass. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex.

Protestant Services: *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Bldg. 217 (old Chapel).

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Synagogue Emanu-El, 5 Windsor Dr., Charleston S.C. Phone: 571-3294.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission: 99 cents for adults and children.

Any person under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (a minimum of 21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Today, 7:30 p.m.

"Undisputed" – Wesley Snipes

In the world of boxing, there's only one prize that matters, the title of undisputed champion. At Sweet Water Prison, the world heavyweight champion is about to meet his match. One man is fighting for his honor, and another is fighting for his future, but only one will emerge from the ring undisputed. **(R) 90 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Barbershop" – Ice Cube

Calvin has inherited the barbershop from his father but always thought it was a waste of time. After selling it to a loan shark, he begins to see the business as something more. **(R) 102 minutes**

Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m.

"Knockaround Guys" – Vin Diesel

Gotti is gone, the Feds are cracking down and there's no such thing as honor anymore. For the somewhat pampered twenty-something sons of four well-known wise guys, it goes deeper than that. **(R) 91 minutes**

SPORTS & FITNESS

CAFB members compete in raquetball tournament

By **AIRMAN STEPHANIE HAMMER**
437AW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Two Charleston AFB members joined the CAFB Varsity Racquetball Team to represent the base in the Choice Hotels U.S. Open Racquetball Championships Wednesday-Nov. 24 in Memphis, Tenn.

Master Sgt. Ray Cordero, 14th Airlift Squadron first sergeant,

joined the team along with Tech. Sgt. Kent Hall, 437th Medical Group medical maintenance NCOIC.

"It has been a few years since the base fielded any type of team, so if a player had some type of success at the local level, then they would qualify for the team," said Cordero. "This is the first time I have represented Team Charleston."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

Kent Hall, 437th Medical Group, takes a swing at the ball during practice with Ray Cordero, 14th Airlift Squadron first sergeant. Hall and Cordero are representing Charleston AFB in the Choice Hotels U.S. Open Raquetball tournament in Memphis, Tenn.

"Earlier this year I was part of the Lackland AFB Varsity Racquetball Team," he continued. "I am a member of the 2001 and 2002 Air Force Racquetball Team, so the base supports the Air Force sports program by sponsoring me to go to these tournaments. In return, I help coordinate the base team composition where there are no teams."

According to Cordero, the civilian tournament is held each year in Memphis, Tenn., and is considered one of the major tournaments in the world.

"The tournament has different levels of competition: pro, open and a combination of skills and or age divisions," said Cordero. "I will be competing against other players in the 'A' skill level while Tech. Sgt. Hall will be competing in the 'B' skill level. As of Nov. 6, there were more than 800 players signed up to play the different skill levels."

According to the Passaic, N.J., native, he plays year-round but tries to double his practice and playing time when training for a tournament.

"I will also gauge my play with some tournament competition to see what I need work on," said

Cordero. "I recently played in the Fort Stewart Open in October and lost the quarterfinals for the open division, but won the 35 (and over) age division."

The 175-pound, 5-foot 8-inch racquetball player said he began playing the sport after watching his brother.

"When I came into the service in 1982, I took advantage of the free racquetball courts the Air Force had to offer and started playing on and off the next 10-12 years," he said. "I got pretty good at it and started playing more over the last eight years."

"Racquetball can be played by anyone, and you immediately feel the workout when you play someone at your level," he continued. "Everything needed to play can be obtained free of charge from the front desk of the fitness center. Try to go and play golf without any equipment and see how far you get."

According to Hall, a 5-foot 7-inch Fort Wayne, Ind., native, "When I joined the Air Force almost 17 years ago, it seemed like a fun way to stay in shape. I have been hooked ever since. I took a few years off from playing over those 17 years, but still love the game."

Manning manages week eleven win

By **THE SWAMI**
PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATOR

Alex Manning has joined the lucky list of having the distinction of winning the weekly Swami picks.

Manning beat out Bill Kersting, who both shared an 11-3 record, but Manning had the better tiebreaker score. Kersting, the father of last week's headline brothers, was visibly upset when his beloved Packers lost to the Vikings.

"I'm seriously considering converting to a Vikings fan," said Kersting. "Besides, Minnesota is close to Wisconsin and I used to be a huge Fran Tarkenton fan. I just can't get over the shock of losing to the Vikings."

It appeared to be an easy week for almost everyone. The worst record was 8-8, which belonged to Shannon Johnson. Johnson is used to being in last place. That's two weeks in a row, according to the Swami.

The Swami has decided not to put the

Thanksgiving games in the paper. As far as the Swami is concerned, they are not real games anyway. The Swami will tell you that New England will destroy Detroit and Washington will skin Dallas.

The Swami is going to talk with the commissioner to see about doing away with the "traditional" Dallas and Detroit games. People want to see some real games with real teams.

Here are the top 10 pigskin pickers after 10 weeks. To qualify, you must have at least seven weeks on the Swami books.

1. Stephen "NFL Films" Sabol
2. Jeffrey Stockdale
3. Bill "Brett" Kersting
4. Scott Greer
5. Dennis "Aldo the Greek" Ingold
6. Debbie "Dallas" Morillo
7. Curtis Peterson
8. Doyle "Lemieux" Smith
9. Gary Palmiter
10. George Thompson

Week 13

Name/Phone #: _____
Comments: _____

Sunday, Dec. 1

Miami @ Buffalo
Baltimore @ Cincinnati
Carolina @ Cleveland
Chicago @ **Green Bay**
Pittsburgh @ Jacksonville
Arizona @ **Kansas City**
Atlanta @ Minnesota
Tennessee @ **N.Y. Giants**
Houston @ **Indianapolis**
Denver @ **San Diego**
St. Louis @ **Philadelphia**
Seattle @ **San Francisco**
Tampa Bay @ New Orleans

Monday, Dec. 2

N.Y. Jets @ **Oakland**

Monday night total points: _____

Swami's Monday night points: **48**

Swami's picks are in bold and italics.

Send your picks to: Swami@charleston.af.mil

Picks must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 31, 4 p.m.